

STATE OF KANSAS

SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT
PO BOX 20335
WICHITA, KANSAS 67208
316-652-9067
Office: STATE CAPITOL BUILDING—135-E
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7387
HOTLINE 1-800-432-3924
email: Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov
Oletha29th@aol.com



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER
OLETHA FAUST-GOUDEAU
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

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JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

February 11th, 2021

Testimony in Support of HB 2193

House Transportation Committee

Chair Rep. Richard Proehl

Vice-Chair Rep. Leo Delperdang

Ranking Minority Member Rep. Henry Helgeson

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and other distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2193.

A few years ago, we passed a law allowing individuals with a suspended drivers' license to apply for a restricted license and pay a non-refundable fee to drive to work, school, church, court, and doctors' appointments while maintaining car insurance and making payments on traffic fines. The Department of Revenue/Driver Control reports that many have applied and received a restricted license fines were collected in their department and locally. That is a "Win, Win" situation. However, many applications were denied for various reasons. I began tracking current law and attended a Suspended Drivers' License Workshop two summers ago as a panelist with Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsey, attorneys, a staff person with Drivers Control, along with the Racial Profiling Board, who participated over the phone during the workshop to answer questions from almost 300 people in attendance. What we discovered at the workshop, being the main reason that some individuals could not participate in current law and receive a restricted license, was that they were in a revoked status (Driving while suspended). I also worked with Peter Ninemire and Melissa Lubbers of the Caring Center of Wichita to try to address this issue.

This bill includes those drivers with certain conditions and will help so many people affected by this issue by allowing them to drive back and forth to work, school, etc., while making payments towards their fines. It also will remove other barriers that prevent reinstatement regarding drivers' licenses, which you will hear about from other conferees here today. I truly believe that without your help, it is very unlikely that some Kansans, because of high traffic fines that have accumulated for them over the years, they will never be able to drive legally again.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to support HB 2193.

Sincerely,

Sen. Oletha Faust Goudeau